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September 8, 1976

OLC #76-2653

Mr. George Bush
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bush:

As you may be aware, the Congressional Research Service is tasked with providing to Congress, among other services, analytical studies on topics of national importance. Such studies aim at objectivity and non-partisan coverage in unclassified formats, much as studies of the Intelligence Community do in classified forms for the executive branch.

Two of our analysts in the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division are currently engaged in a major research project regarding rationalization of the NATO defense effort, scheduled to be published in December 1976. While the end product will be unclassified, the analysts would greatly benefit from an opportunity to meet with analysts from the Intelligence Community to discuss the project. Topics of particular concern are: the status of NATO standardization efforts; attitudes of the European allies regarding standardization; developments in the Eurogroup and the European Program Group, particularly concerning the French role in the latter. Our analysts would appreciate the participation of intelligence analysts from the political and military analytical components of the Intelligence Community in any briefing sessions that might be arranged.

The two CRS analysts in question, Stanley Sloan and Robert Bell, both possess Top Secret clearances which can be certified through the Personnel Security Office, Library of Congress. If possible, the CRS analysts would like to schedule a meeting at CIA for the third or fourth week of September, if that would be possible. Specific arrangements for the briefings can be made directly with the project coordinator, Stan Sloan, IDS Code 182, X5054.

Sincerely yours,

Norman Beckman
Acting Director
Congressional Research Service

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

The attached draft is a

Suggested response to the Beck-
man letter asking us to brief
two CRS analysts.

Date

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(date)

Mr. Norman Beckman
Acting Director
Congressional Research Service
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Mr. Beckman:

Thank you for your letter outlining a major research CRS project regarding rationalization of the NATO defense effort and requesting our cooperation with the analysts undertaking the project.

I shall be pleased to make available a few analysts from CIA's military and political production offices to discuss the topics you suggested with the two CRS analysts concerned. I am asking our Office of Legislative Counsel to contact your project coordinator, Mr. Sloan, as soon as possible so that we can set up the meeting you have requested at CIA before the end of this month.

The CIA components concerned will, of course, be interested in reviewing the study when it is completed by Mr. Sloan and Mr. Bell.

Sincerely yours,

George Bush
Director